

# Water Quality Data Elements for Physical Habitat Assessment Data

June 2003

(WQDE) = Approved data elements for chemical and microbiological analyses)

Data Elements		Definition
1.0	Contact Information	See WQDE
2.0	Results	
2.1	Result Value	The data being reported: index score, parameter value, field or lab measurement
2.2	Result Type	e.g. Index, parameter, measurement
2.3	Unit of Measure	If applicable; e.g. "unitless score"
2.4	Name of parameter/index used	Includes: assessment indices (RBP, QHEI, Rosgen), visually-based parameters (Instream Condition, Embeddedness), or quantitative measurements (thalweg depth, turbidity, flow)
2.5	Method citation	Reference citation (preferably published) for assessment method
2.5.1	Modifications to method if any	Text describing alterations to published assessment method
3.0	Reasons for Sampling	
3.1	Reason for Sample Collection	See WQDE
3.2	Sampling Design Used	Type of analytical design used to choose sites for evaluation. Includes: probabilistic, stratified-random, targeted, systematic
4.0	Date/Time	
4.1 – 4.4		See WQDE
5.0	Location Elements	See WQDE
6.0	Sample Collection Data Elements	For quantitative measurements (field or lab) of physical habitat characteristics
6.1 – 6.4		See WQDE
6.5	Sample Collection Method	
6.5.1	Sample Collection Device	Indicate instrument used to collect individual samples or measurements; e.g. flowmeter, altimeter, densiometer, visual evaluation
6.5.1.1	Instrument manufacturer	If applicable (is this "core"?)
6.5.2	Area or Volume Sampled	Amount of area or volume of material sampled. For example, 1 square meter of stream bottom was sampled or 2 liters of sediment were collected for screening
6.5.3	Written Sampling Method Citation	Reference citation (preferably published) for sampling method used
6.5.4	Certification/Training Status Of Sampler Personnel	Text providing any certification or experience level of personnel sampling. For example, agency-trained/certified personnel
6.5.5	Sample Composite Method	Text indicating the way in which samples were composited in the field prior to processing, if any: Depth-integrated composite, time-integrated composite, area-integrated, habitat-integrated, none
6.6	Sample Processing	
6.6.1	Field Or Lab Processing	Indicate whether samples were processed in the field or lab
6.6.2	Initial Device Used	Indicate equipment used for initial processing such as screens, sieves, splitters

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6.6.3	Subsampling Method	Text indicating method used to obtain subsamples for testing, if any: e.g. random aliquot
6.6.4	Homogenization Method	Text indicating how sample was mixed prior to subsampling, if any: e.g. shaker, manual stirring
6.6.5	Compositing Method	Text indicating the way in which samples were composited during processing, if any
6.6.6	Written Protocol Citation	Citation for method used in sample processing
6.6.7	Sample Storage Time	Time, in hours or days, over which sample was stored prior to testing: hours or days
7.0	QA/QC	
7.1	Certification/Accreditation	See NELAP/NELAC Accreditation module if applicable
7.2	Data Quality Objectives	
7.3	Quality Assurance Procedures	